

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### July 2021



#### State of the Meeting DMVF Report to IYMC

Des Moines Valley Friends has continued to meet for worship primarily on Zoom, with a small group meeting outside the meeting house last summer and fall. Recently a small group of Friends has been meeting in-person both inside and outside of the meeting house; we continue to use Zoom to keep us all connected.

The pandemic highlighted both strengths and concerns of the meeting. Members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee focused on care of our members and attenders and checked on Friends who were not attending the Zoom meetings on a regular basis. Attempts were made to adjust meeting traditions to foster community while keeping everyone safe: at Thanksgiving several Friends made extra helpings of food which were delivered to solitary members; we had our traditional Christmas caroling on Zoom complete with piano accompaniment and harp solos.

Our concept of membership expanded as we welcomed members, attenders and visitors from other parts of Iowa, other states, Spain, and Germany. We are currently exploring how best to continue our combination of in-person and virtual worship to continue to include Friends not

currently living in the Des Moines area.

Members commented about a perhaps paradoxical increased intimacy while meeting virtually. There were more messages during meeting for worship and during the sharing of joys and concerns which followed meeting, people shared at greater length about what was going on in their lives.

We missed the presence of Friends who are not comfortable with attending meeting for worship virtually. We missed the presence of children in the meeting house and were grateful for the one family whose children were with them for worship on zoom.

Fewer people have attended business meetings, which have also occurred on Zoom. Nonetheless, we have addressed weighty issues both in business meeting and during second hours including AFSC moving out of our attached neighbor, Friends  
(continued on page 7)

#### **DON'T MISS the PLAY!**

DMVFs First Day School is debuting a short, original play, "The Children's Meeting," July 18th at noon on zoom. Friends are encouraged to support our youth by tuning in from your home or from the meeting house. Watch for a special Zoom invitation, which will be sent out in an email.

#### The BUS-*eum* History Exhibit Visits Des Moines



Michael-Luick Thrams (right) in the Bus-*eum* with Russ Leckband and Ann Robinson.

A unique historical exhibit, the "BUS-*eum*," created by DMV Friend, Professor Michael Luick-Thrams, is traversing the American Heartland this summer, with initial visits in Des Moines, at Living History Farms, July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and at DMVF Friends Meeting, on Sunday, July 4.

The impressive mobile museum in a retrofitted school bus, offers insights through posters, videos, books and stories that offer insights into America's present problems by revisiting parallel historical events, including the pandemic of 1918, Prohibition-era bootlegging and Ku Klux Klan activities in the 1920s Midwest.

"By examining this shared heritage anew, we can see our origins and our possible fates in a new light," says Luick-Thrams.

Find more details and the summer's BUS-*eum* schedule at [www.TRACES.org](http://www.TRACES.org)

## **DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business June 13, 2021**

**Present:** Dorothy Lifka, clerk;  
Deborah Fisch, recording clerk;  
Claire Cumbie Drake; Catherine  
Dietz-Kilen; Dick Douglass; Kelsea  
Gillespie; Bob Henderson; Andrea  
Holveck; Katie Jacoby; Fred  
Nelson; DJ Newlin; Ann Robinson;  
Virginia Smith; Billie Wade; Brock  
Womack

As meeting for worship with  
attention to business opened, the  
clerk shared the following from  
“To Be Broken and Tender: A  
Quaker Theology for Today” by  
Margery Post Abbott:

*These days, when I want to  
describe someone I would like as  
a mentor, or a healthy, vibrant  
Quaker meeting, I tend to use the  
words, “broken and tender.” A  
broken, tender community  
contains many individuals who  
have found that place in  
themselves where they can be  
still: a place where love has  
broken apart the bounds of the  
ego. Such people are  
transparent: compassion is  
visible in their movements and  
intent. They are formed by the  
meeting even as they shape it.  
With even a few such people  
present community is more  
tender in its care for one another  
and more passionate in the  
concern for the well-being of the  
world. A broken, tender person  
or meeting is far from flawless.  
People still bump up against  
each other roughly and do  
foolish things. People still hurt  
each other even when intention is  
not there. But there is space for  
seeing the heart of the matter and  
coming to know what was meant.  
There is space for mending what*

*was broken and coming to  
forgiveness.*

### **Review of 05/2021 Minutes**

**06.21.01** – The May 2021  
minutes were approved as printed  
in the June *Friendly Line*.

However, if anyone, upon further  
perusal, sees a typo or error  
please contact the recording clerk  
by the end of this week. All  
reported typos or errors will be  
corrected in the copy of the  
minutes placed in the permanent  
minute book. Any significant  
error that would change the  
meaning of a report or minute  
will be corrected and published  
in the next month’s *Friendly  
Line*.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Kelsea  
Gillespie) – If you know of any  
unpaid expenses or have any  
receipts to turn in for the fiscal  
year ending 06/30/2021, please  
contact me as soon as possible.  
Our IYMC allocation has been  
paid in full. As of 04/30/2021,  
we were 83% of the way through  
our fiscal year, with 109% of  
anticipated income received and  
77% of anticipated expenses  
accrued.

**06.21.02** – The Treasurer’s report  
was approved with appreciation.  
Friends were reminded that  
06/30/2021 is the end of the  
current fiscal year, so any  
outstanding receipts need to be  
sent to the treasurer as soon as  
possible. If someone does not yet  
have a receipt for a reimbursable  
expenditure, they are asked to  
email or text the treasurer with  
the amount and the reason for the  
expenditure so the Finance  
Committee and she can have a  
clear idea of final expenditures  
for the fiscal year as they  
consider next year’s final budget  
proposal.

**Finance Committee Report** The  
following are notes from the  
committee’s meeting on  
05/26/2021. (Katherine Dietz-  
Kilen)

### ***Old Business***

- EdCo/Financial Plus Account  
will be closed soon.
- Additional research confirms  
that financial records should  
be kept for seven years.
- More work on  
Committee/treasurer/assistant  
treasurer description was  
tabled.
- After business meeting  
approval last month, six  
small, designated funds were  
closed out and put in the  
General Reserves or Property  
Management Fund . The  
closed funds do not include  
the Jean Sandstrom Memorial  
Fund or the Education and  
Enrichment Fund.

### ***New Business***

Kelsea Gillespie reviewed the  
April financials for the  
committee. She was pleased to  
report that DMVF has already  
exceeded its income goal for the  
year by the \$2,400. The Meeting  
has also been careful with our  
expenses, so our net income  
(income minus expenses) as of  
the end of April was \$8,677. The  
committee appreciates the  
staunch, generous support from  
members and also from those  
who use the meetinghouse.

We will ask approval to  
increase the telephone budget  
line in 2020/2021 budget to \$700  
but continue to think this is a cost  
we may be able to reduce or  
possibly eliminate in the future.

Meeting will receive a special  
donation for technology, for  
which we are grateful. We will  
seek approval to add a line item

for technology in the current budget for \$5,000, so that the money can be spent during the current fiscal year. We are informed that two Meeting members have incurred costs that can be reimbursed from this fund. Funds not used during FY 2020/2021 will be placed in a Designated Technology Fund for FY 2021/2022. Funds not spent during FY 2021/2022 will be transferred to the Meeting's General Reserves and the designated fund will be closed at that time.

The committee considered developing a policy regarding payment of bills, to state that when appropriate and prudent, we can use funds in reserve to pay bills in a timely manner (see below). Current policy or practice has been that we don't pay until adequate funds come in as part of that year's income, which means bills incurred at the beginning of the fiscal year may not be promptly paid.

We reviewed the proposed 2021/2022 budget and will present a draft to the June meeting for worship with attention to business.

Recommendations include:

- Continue an "austerity" budget
- Increase phone line item to \$700.
- Keep the apportionment to IYMC at the level it was for FY 2020-2021 (\$14,500).
- Need to add \$20/month for internet service, paid quarterly to Friends House.
- Create flexible fund for Finance Committee to use for unanticipated costs due to Friends House transition

- Keep budget line for Property Management at zero.

#### DVFM Policy Regarding Payments of Bills

The DVFM treasurer is responsible to ensure that the bills of the Meeting are timely paid from the funds of the Meeting. It is the policy of the Meeting that the treasurer first pays the bills from funds received in the current fiscal year, but may, at the treasurer's discretion, use funds from the Meeting's general reserves, if necessary, to timely pay amounts due, and if by doing so, the Meeting's financial well-being is not compromised.

#### ***Other Business***

In July, at the beginning of the next fiscal year, (FY 2022) we will plan to put another message in *Friendly Line* about the Meeting's finances.

**06.21.03** – We listened carefully and with interest to the reports of the Finance Committee, including the first draft budget for FY 2022 which runs from 07/01/21 to 06/30/2022 and amended policy recommendation. All policy changes in the reports were approved. However, Friends asked Finance Committee to consider whether each year some additional money could be put in the line allocated for Property Management. This would give Meeting a better opportunity to build up funding to cover all or a major portion of costs for unscheduled major repairs and/ or that could be used to fund yet unknown major renovations.

Friends also asked the Committee to consider if Meeting would be able to add another \$500 to the amount set

aside to cover DMV's annual share of Yearly Meeting's operational expenses (including Scattergood Friends School donations) for the next fiscal year. In the last two years, DMV Friends reduced its allotment by \$1000, and last year, Decorah Meeting increased its allotment in response. The committee heard the suggestions and will take them into consideration at their next meeting.

We appreciate all the work being done by Kelsea as treasurer, Catherine Dietz-Kilen, as the new convener, and Ann Robinson, former convener who stayed on this year to help the new Finance Committee get going. We acknowledge with thanks the many hours and careful work done by the whole committee.

We thank the anonymous donor for providing funding that allows Meeting and some individuals needing it to upgrade computer technology so we can offer attendance at worship and most Meeting events via Zoom, so that those joining from outside the meetinghouse and those returning to worship at the meeting house will be able to see and hear each other as the Spirit works in us and through us.

**Ministry & Counsel Committee Report** (Gordon Bivens) – The committee held its regular meeting First Day, 06/06/2021. Present via zoom were Dorothy Lifka, Andrea Holveck, D.J. Newlin, Deborah Fisch and Gordon Bivens.

We heard a report that the special committee to ensure spirituality in hybrid meetings had met. Appreciation was noted for the new computer for use in

the meeting room and other equipment helping to make it feasible to have hybrid meetings. Some concerns about seeing and hearing those at the meeting house were expressed and will be given to the special committee

Concern for members and attenders with known special needs were discussed and ways in which the committee might be of help were noted.

We approved the proposed State of the Meeting Report for FY 2021 and will present it for approval and ask if approved it be sent on to the clerk of IYMC and the clerk of IYMC Ministry & Counsel by the Meeting clerk. (see State of the Meeting Report, as approved, beginning on page 1 of this FL).

**06.21.04** – We received the report of Ministry & Counsel and the proposed State of the Meeting Report to IYMC for fiscal year 2021. We listened carefully to the beautifully written report. It reminded us of the many ways Meeting has been held by the Spirit of Love during the continuing COVID pandemic, and the many ways Friends have found to reach out to each other even though we couldn't meet in person. We approve the State of the Meeting Report, and request copies be sent to the Yearly Meeting clerk and clerk of the IYMC Ministry & Counsel by the Meeting's clerk.

**Nominating Committee**

**Report** (Dorothy Lifka) The following are the recommendations for officers and committee members:

**Clerk:** Dorothy Lifka

**Co-Clerk:** Open

**Assistant Clerks:** Fred Nelson; Deborah Fisch

**Recording Clerk:** Deborah Fisch

**Assistant Recording Clerk:** Claire Cumbie- Drake

**Treasurer:** Kelsea Gillespie

**Assistant Treasurer:** Cindy Winchell

**2nd Hour Scheduler:** Carol Spaulding Kruse

**Query Facilitation:** House Scheduler

**Query Recorder:** House Scheduler

**Finance Committee:** Catherine Dietz-Kilen (convener), Dick Douglass, Kelsea Gillespie, Cindy Winchell

**Ministry and Counsel:** Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck, Deborah Fisch, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Dorothy Lifka, Carol Spaulding Kruse

**Nominating Committee:** ?

**Peace and Social Concerns:** Steve Shivers, Peter Clay, Jack Holveck, Billie Wade, Patty Wengert

**Hospitality Committee:** Charlie Brown; David Drake, Andrea Holveck, Jan Falb

**Religious Education**

**Committee:** Andrea Holveck, Patty Reynolds, Dorothy Lifka, Deborah Fisch

**Building and Grounds**

**Committee:** Charlie Brown, Fred Nelson, Edith Munroe, Kirk Bragg, Dick Douglass, Bob Henderson

**Library Committee:** Virginia Smith, DJ Newlin, Pam Blackburn, Jan Falb

**Friendly Line Committee:** Ann Robinson, Virginia Smith, Billie Wade

**Outreach Committee:** Ann Robinson, Michael Luick-Thrams

**Property Management**

**Committee:** Fred Nelson, Dick Douglass, Bob Henderson

**DMARC Representatives:**

Carol Spaulding Kruse

**FH Board Representatives:**

Deborah Fisch, Fred Nelson, (other openings)

**Audit Committee:** Outside Audit Completed

**Phone Messages:** Carol Spaulding Kruse

**House Scheduler:** Claire Cumbie-Drake

**06.21.05** – Meeting approves the Nominating Committee's recommended appointments for FY 2022 officers and committee members Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting with appreciation for all who serve.

**Committee Reports Accepted But Not Read During Meeting for Business**

All reports received prior to meeting for worship with attention to business were distributed by the clerk via e-mail. Meeting approved the suggestion by the clerk that because of the amount of business before Meeting this month reports distributed prior to business meeting, not requiring action by Meeting, be accepted by consent and not read. However, those reports will appear in the minutes in *The Friendly Line* as a part of the June 2021 Minutes.

**Peace & Social Concerns**

**Committee Report** (Patty Wengert) 06/01/2021. Present: Jack Holveck, Peter Clay, and Patty Wengert – We have \$383.95 in our committee account. We approved a \$50.00 donation to DMARC.

We reviewed our past year of Zoom meetings and our

committee activity and participation so that we can update yearly meeting in July. Our committee had reviewed the listings of organizations where Meeting has had member(s) serving on boards or in which Meeting has been co-sponsors of events occurring in the city.

The committee also reviewed donations sent by our committee to other organizations. Iowa Peace Network continues to keep Iowans up to date on statewide activities for peace and justice. We continued to support our local food pantry and food banks.

We wrote an opposition letter to death penalty reinstatement legislation introduced in the Iowa legislature this past session. The bill was not passed.

There has been a degree of sadness as the AFSC Immigration program and AFSC office relocated from Friends House this March, laying down the former AFSC program and beginning a joint organization with Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors. The new group is now Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, with many of the former AFSC employees still involved in the merged group. Our committee has been supportive of the new group. While there is sadness and a heavy heart with the changes, we look forward to being supportive of Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors and AFSC in the future.

Our committee was supportive of local shelters for unhoused persons as well as the Sanctuary Movement in an assisting capacity. Individual members were active with Blacks Lives Matter groups and activities.

Our committee discussed Right Relationship with Indigenous People, the idea of land acknowledgement in relation to real property by Caucasian settlements. A member was also involved with Racial Justice Teams through Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement seeking de-escalation, police training and advocating for changes to address racial profiling in our community.

P&SC Committee meetings will remain the first Tuesdays of the month at noon for the next couple of months.

#### **DMVF Religious Education Report to IYMC FY2021**

This past year Des Moines Valley Friends continued to provide religious education to the youth of our meeting through Zoom due to necessary COVID-19 restrictions. Although it was hard for the adults and children not to be with each other in person, there was one very important benefit. This allowed us to include children from two families who no longer live in the Des Moines area.

Three elementary and middle school age Friends attended First Day School regularly. Topics covered included exploring other faith traditions and the Quaker testimonies. The topic that got the children most excited was the story of the children's meeting of 1663. They spent several First Day classes writing and developing a short play based on materials from the Meeting as well as from what they could find on the Internet, and they have been planning and rehearsing for the past few months. They (as well as some invited adults from

Meeting) are planning to present the play virtually for Meeting members this summer. Working on the play has led these young Friends to take more responsibility for their own learning as they have "schooled" their teachers and other adults on how to use Zoom more effectively and shared how they think the project should go.

They have expressed some interest in researching and writing articles for the DMVF's monthly newsletter, *The Friendly Line*.

We have also provided "Young First Day School" virtually during the week for two to three younger children using a mix of books, songs, on-line resources, discussion and projects. We've used the *Sparklers* curriculum and the Quaker "Spices" as our focus.

Adult religious education has consisted of answering the Queries and Second Hour discussions. The latter included discussing the impact of AFSC leaving our shared building space and our vision for the Meeting moving forward, DMVF finances, and issues of immigrant rights.

One book was donated to our library this year: "To Be Broken and Tender: A Quaker Theology for Today" by Margery Post Abbott.

-- Submitted by Dorothy Lifka  
**Report of the DMVF Representatives to DMARC**

As one of the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) reps for Des Moines Valley Friends, I'm writing with my report about their annual meeting. The meeting took place 05/20/2021 on Zoom.

Unfortunately, I was 30 minutes late because I got the time wrong. However, the meeting was recorded, and I am sending all of the links as resources, should people wish to explore their annual summary further.

In sum, DMARC not only rose to the occasion during COVID to maintain services when there was already quite high demand, but they also seemed to thrive in areas of their mission that one might expect had been hampered by COVID.

In the portion of the meeting that I did attend, and after watching several of the short videos to catch up on what I missed, here is what I learned:

The organization rapidly assembled COVID protocols for n-contact delivery in response to the onset of the pandemic. Sometimes they had to get creative, like tying a rope to a grocery bag and hefting it up to an open window where it could be retrieved by the family. Mobile pantry service also continued.

[They implemented a Farm to Families Food Box program](#), a project of the USDA. According to Matt Unger, DMARC's CEO, this is the fifth of five rounds in which DMARC has participated. The program ended 05/31/2021.

Advocacy is a big part of DMARC's work. That is, for the folks at DMARC, addressing food insecurity as both a legislative and community equity issue is as important as addressing the issue of hunger in our area. DMARC is a member of the [Iowa Hunger Coalition](#) which combines resources with other state

organizations that address food insecurity.

School closures meant an interruption of access to regular nutritious food for many school-age children. DMARC and the Food Bank of Iowa stepped up to [provide supplemental food](#) to families in the DMPS district.

Interfaith engagement and supporting dialogue among diverse faith traditions is a vital component of DMARC's work. Despite COVID, the organization again helped to plan and execute an annual Interfaith Youth Camp sponsored by Drake's The Comparison Project. A [screening of films](#) made by student storytellers will take place 07/21/2021 from 3-5 PM.

The organization also continued an Interfaith Dialogue group, which gathers weekly for book study on topics related to faith, diversity and tradition.

I was inspired by the unflagging efforts of the folks at DMARC to continue service to our community despite the challenges presented by COVID. With more families than ever struggling with joblessness and homelessness, DMARC's role is vital, and their approach to interfaith-based service demonstrates the work of love flowing throughout our community.

The full meeting is available on Facebook at <https://fb.watch/5HCu95AEzX/>  
The Year in review slideshow at: <https://youtu.be/3A76mqUzYYw>  
Serving our neighbors in a pandemic: <https://youtu.be/sXF7uNSbiB4>  
Interfaith engagement online: <https://youtu.be/6u9GLiS3UiI>

-- Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Spaulding-Kruse

### **Re-Opening Committee Report**

(Dorothy Lifka) The Re-Opening Committee informed the Meeting that groups that have used the meetinghouse in the past have been invited to return with the recommendation that those who have not been fully vaccinated wear masks. This is in accordance with CDC recommendations. There is also no need to continue to sanitize hands, countertops, light switches, etc. upon leaving the building.

### **Liaison Report on Edna Griffin Mutual Aid Work**

(Deborah Fisch on behalf of Peter Clay and herself) Edna Griffin Mutual Aid (EGMA) continues to use our kitchen for preparation of meals for the houseless on Wednesday morning. Since Meeting is starting to open up the meetinghouse and plans to begin letting previous renters resume meeting there, Deborah plans to talk to the volunteers. Our hope is they will be able to continue to use the kitchen, but they will need to be able to clean their pots and pans, label food in sealed containers in the fridge, and store their pots, pans and other materials in their storage place across the hall and not on the kitchen counters.

### **New Business & Announcements**

IYMC Registration Annual sessions for Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative annual sessions are scheduled for 07/22-25/2021. Registration will go on-line very soon, at: [www.iymc.org](http://www.iymc.org). (See page 9 for more details.)

The Entertainment Committee, which plans all activities of IYMC in session other than the business meeting sessions, reminded F/friends that this year's annual sessions will be held via Zoom meeting, hopefully for the last time. Volunteers are still needed to serve as tech assistants – there will be training available. Contact An if you are willing to help.

Annual End of the School Year Picnic This year's annual picnic is being postponed to a date to be announced toward the end of summer. It is hoped that by postponing the annual event F/friends will be able to meet in person and have a real potluck.

#### Need for Volunteers for Buseum

Interns coming to the U.S. with Michael Luick-Thrams to assist with the tour of his Buseum have been denied Visas to get into the country. Because of this, additional volunteer are needed. Some F/friends from Meeting have already volunteered to help while it is in Des Moines, but more would be welcome. The Buseum is scheduled to arrive in Des Moines on 07/01 and will be here until the morning of 07/05.

#### Meeting Concludes

There being no other business Meeting concluded. Meeting for business is scheduled next for 07/11/2021. It will be the beginning of a new fiscal year.

#### State of the Meeting

(continued from page 1)  
House, our relationship to Friends House, meeting finances and our financial relationship with IYM.



If you plant it, they will come -- monarch on milkweed. Photo by Ann Robinson.

Very few people have attended this year's Advices & Queries which were moved to a midweek evening and held on Zoom. Nonetheless the discussions have been lively and there has been a comfort level in meeting from our own homes.

Like many meetings, DMVF feels challenged by the aging of our membership. Most of our children and grandchildren do not identify as Friends. An Ad Hoc Outreach Committee is planning to meet to consider ways to reach out to the community so that we can be more inclusive. Yearly Meeting could help by sharing how other meetings are addressing this issue and resources to address this issue. Several Friends have invited others to our meeting; each of us could be more mindful of individual opportunities for outreach.

#### **Query Discussion: EDUCATION**

**June 2nd, 2021 via Zoom**

Attending: Andrea and Jack Holveck, Dorothy Lifka and Brock Wommack.

*How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude towards life?*

Friends discussed how quickly children are able to receive information from the internet, and how the pandemic has sequestered them more to the internet. It was also discussed that learning is ever present, and a helpful discipline follows this thread; Don't waste your time on what you don't want to learn.

The Netflix program "Connected" is recommended. Also recommended is the book "The Great Necessity."

*What effort are we making to be better acquainted with the Bible...the history and principles of Friends...contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage?*

Friends discussed how important the idea of a community is to educate children of the Meeting. It takes a village. The support of other faiths is an example to children within the Meeting. Their rituals are an expression of different religions. The best education for children is observing adults—it is more important than lessons.

*In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish?*

Scattergood School provides an example of the process. Another Friend recalled that dinner time at the table provided

a steady education of many different values, for discussions continued every night and could last several hours; opening the world to each at the table.

Another Friend remarked on an osmosis that occurs watching adults and siblings interact.

*How do gender based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn?*

Friends discussed how finally our national culture is moving away consciously from gender expectations. It is also to be noted how more girls are present now in STEM education.

*Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries, and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?*

This is the strong suit of Quakers, determined gathered Friends in the discussion. One Friend reminded us that in the late 1800s, the one room schoolhouse in Iowa counties began as a Friendly project that was devolved to become Iowa grade school education. Others spoke of their experiences within programmed Meetings as equally Friendly and spiritual. All in the discussion agreed in the strength of recognition that the testimonies of men and women are equally valid and supportive.

*How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?*

Friends agreed that a valuable tool is to be prepared to change. Keep up with current events and view as many different sources of news as possible; locally, nationally and internationally. Praise children for their accomplishments. Friends

discussed how current education stresses testing rather than knowledge and understanding, leaving parents in the role of expanding their children's experience. One Friend expressed the importance of writing essays as a part of testing.

The Meeting for query discussion ended with a silent gathering in worship.

-- Contributed by Brock Wommack

### **QUERY #1 for July: Meeting for Worship**

#### **ADVICE:**

Meeting for worship is the heart of the meeting. In the silence, we seek direct communion with God, the Spirit, conscious of the seeking of others. From the depths of living silence, may come an awareness of the presence of the Spirit. Sometimes the silence is unbroken. At other times a message may come to any one of us which seems intended not simply for the worshiper, but for the gathering as a whole. If the message is not expressed, one may feel a sense of not having been faithful to a leading of the Spirit, but if it is spoken, a sense of peace may follow. We are most effective if we speak clearly, simply and from our own experience. Because we are unique individuals who come from varied backgrounds and life experiences, our messages reflect diversity. Part of our worship together is listening with an open spirit, holding the speaker in love, remembering that silence after the message is part of the message. Our daily lives are

linked with meeting for worship. In the search for truth, Friends are encouraged to spend time in individual study, meditation or prayer and to be open to other sources of inspiration around us. The life of the meeting may be strengthened by a deep level of sharing, discussion or worship at times other than regularly scheduled meetings.

Friends should make an effort to arrive at meeting for worship prepared in mind and spirit to support one another in a worshipful atmosphere. As we give and receive, in speech or in silence, we are drawn together in the life of the Spirit.

#### **QUERIES:**

Are our meetings for worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit? How do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship?

How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship? How do we integrate our daily lives with meeting for worship? Do we seek opportunities for worship outside of meeting?

How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? In what ways do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?

### **News of our Friends**

**Patti Mckee** sends greetings to Des Moines Valley F(f)riends. She says she is recovering well from heart surgery: She is going to cardiac rehab, and able to do most normal life activities, though not yet up to full strength and energy yet.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Owen Newlin Memorial**

The family of Owen Newlin, who passed away July 12, 2020, has tentatively rescheduled a meeting for remembrance and worship Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. The service will be held at the conference room on the Iowa Methodist Hospital campus on Woodland Avenue, under the care of Des Moines Valley Friends, Final details pending.

### **YOU ARE INVITED TO Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing Our Light 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), July 22-25**

*A tapestry evokes interconnectedness, with many interdependent threads coming together to create beauty, strength and vitality. As Spirit guides us, we will gather this year to celebrate all of our gifts. Beginning within each person's heart and spirit and rippling out to our monthly and yearly meeting, to Scattergood, our country and the broader world, many of us sense that dramatic transformation is happening now. As we gather, we trust that we will glimpse new understanding of how disparate threads, including connecting more intimately with the light, working to address systemic racism and economic inequality, practicing sustainability, seeking right relationship with Indigenous Peoples, welcoming migrants and championing peace, are intimately connected. This year's workshops, panels, worship sharing, Bible study,*

*evening collections and concert, and pre-meeting speaker offer opportunities for each of us to be stretched into deeper connection with one another as we share the Spirit-led work of transforming ourselves and the world into Beloved Community. Please join us!*

**Please register by July 14, online at:**

**<https://www.iymc.org/2021-business-meeting/>** where you will also find the program and schedule. **Registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate.**

If you have children who wish to participate in Junior Yearly Meeting, it is important to register them by July 7<sup>th</sup> so that we may plan for youth programming.

Again this year, we will meet virtually to protect the health of F(f)riends and Scattergood staff and students. Sessions will include worship, business, special programs and time for catching up with friends new and old.

All are warmly welcome to participate in all – or part – of this year's sessions, whether you are a Quaker sage or a newcomer, exploring the Religious Society of Friends and deeper involvement in the world. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know each other better as Friends and friends.

## **DES MOINES VALLEY FRIENDS**

**Meeting for Worship:** First days at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Dorothy Lifka, at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com)

**Meeting for Worship/Business:** Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

### **Second Hours:**

July 4: BUS-eum stories with Michael Luick-Thrams

**Child Care:** Temporarily suspended at the Meeting House. If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, please contact Dorothy at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com).

### **Building & Grounds:**

Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

### **Hospitality Committee:**

If you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee Convener Cindy Winchell, 515-720-5516

**Friendly Line:** Please send info for next Friendly Line by Friday, July 30, 2021, to Ann at [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net)

Find us online at:

[www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](http://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)

Check out our **Facebook** group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at [jfalb0326@yahoo.com](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com)